

State of the Allied Healthcare Workforce in Missouri

An overview of the issues and opportunities for allied health careers

November 2005

Drivers in the Healthcare Sector

Allied health careers have driven growth in the overall healthcare industry. From 2000 to 2004:

- Over 24% of total job growth in the health care sector was due to growth of allied health jobs.
- More than 2,600 net jobs were created during that same time period.

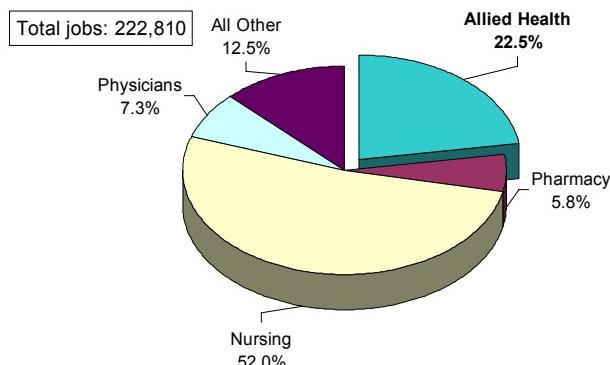
Source: MERIC, Occupational Employment Statistics in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2004.

A Dramatic Economic Shift

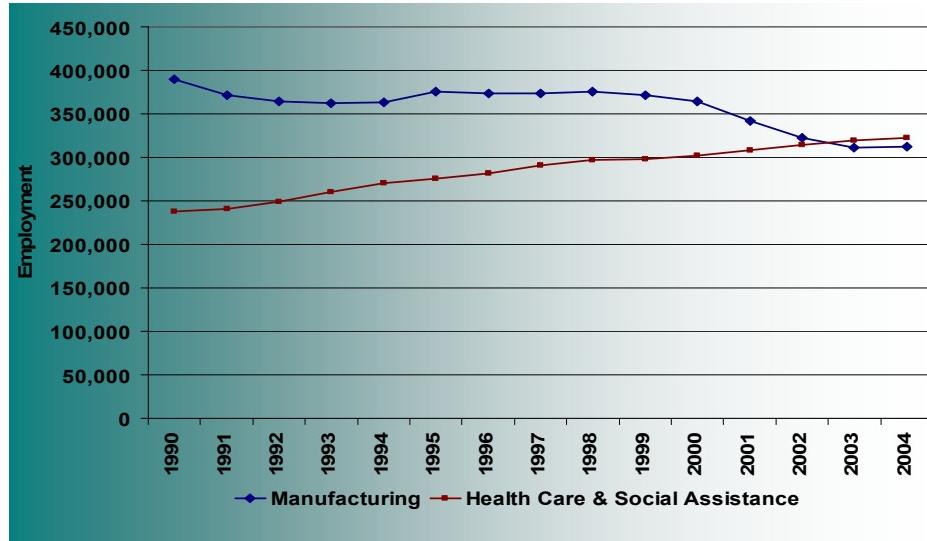
In the past decade, Missouri shifted from a goods producing to a service producing economy. This trend is evident when comparing historical industry employment in Manufacturing versus Health Care and Social Assistance.

In 1990, Manufacturing accounted for more than 16% of jobs statewide with Social Assistance accounting for only 10% of jobs. After the economic shift, Health Care/Social Assistance added over 84,000 jobs to account for almost 12% of statewide employment in 2004. During that same time period, Manufacturing lost more than 78,000 jobs and now only accounts for 11% of statewide employment.

Health Care Jobs in Missouri (Nov. 2004)

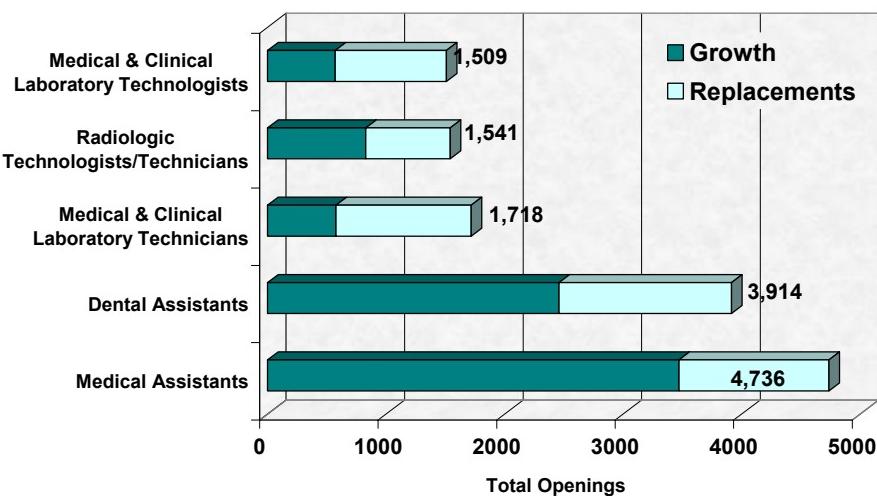


Manufacturing and Health Care and Social Assistance Employment



Source: MERIC, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages by Industry in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1990-2004.

Projected openings for selected allied health occupations in Missouri, 2002-2012



Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2002-2012.

A Strong Outlook for Allied Health Careers

From 2002 to 2012, Allied Health careers are projected to add over 14,000 jobs - a percent increase of 28% from 2002.

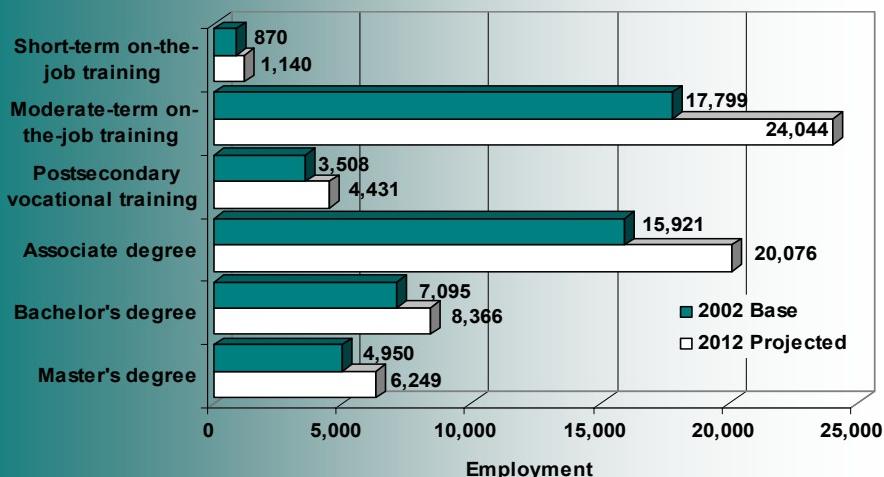
Total job openings over the ten-year period are a combination of both growth and replacement openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy. Replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements – not new jobs.

The Future for Allied Health Training

In 2012, over 37% percent of workers in Allied Health careers will be employed in occupations that typically require moderate-term (less than 12 months) on-the-job training.

Expected job openings in Allied Health will, however, place demands on higher education over the next ten years. In 2012, 31% of Allied Health workers will need skills typically obtained through an associate's degree.

Future Levels of Educational Attainment for Allied Health Careers



Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2002-2012, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Wage Rates for the Top 5 Employing Allied Health Occupations

Occupation	Nov. 2004 Employment	Hourly Wage		
		25th Percentile	Average	75th Percentile
Medical assistants	6,580	\$9.37	\$11.28	\$13.02
Dental assistants	4,870	\$10.84	\$13.28	\$14.96
Radiologic technologists and technicians	4,230	\$16.42	\$26.07	\$24.89
Psychiatric technicians	4,210	\$9.12	\$10.23	\$11.13
Physical therapists	3,490	\$22.72	\$27.20	\$31.93

Source: MERIC, Occupational Employment Statistics in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Training Providers for Allied Health Careers

In Missouri, there are 114 training providers/educational institutions that offer Allied Health Career training programs.

Almost half of the Allied Health Career training providers in the state (55) are located in the two major metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis.

However, there is ample access to other Allied Health training providers across Missouri including smaller metropolitan areas such as Jefferson City, and Rolla, Cape Girardeau.

Two of the fastest growing occupations in the Allied Health sector are Radiologic Technicians (21% growth) and Physical Therapists (27% growth).

These two occupations pay above average wages of \$26.07 and \$27.20 an hour respectively.

